

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) A variable tension fastener for attaching, and tensioning, a cover over a vehicle, comprising a first member for attachment to a peripheral portion of a vehicle and a second member for attachment to a cover; one of said members comprising a female member; the other of said members comprising a hinged lever pivotal about a pivot and including a male member for extending through said female member and having a series of transverse recesses spaced sequentially from said pivot for selective engagement with said female member; pivoting of said lever about said pivot, to a closed position, tensions said cover and attaches said cover to said vehicle.
2. (Original) A fastener as claimed in claim 1, said first member including independent means for attaching said first member to said vehicle.
3. (Original) A fastener as claimed in claim 1, said first member including means for releasably attaching said first member to existing attachment means on said vehicle.
4. (Original) A fastener as claimed in claim 3, including a female member on said first member for releasable attachment to a male member on said vehicle.
5. (Original) A fastener as claimed in claim 1, said second member including independent means for attaching said second member to said cover.

6. (Original) A fastener as claimed in claim 1, said second member including means for releasably attaching said second member to said cover.
7. (Original) A fastener as claimed in claim 6, including a male member on said second member for releasable attachment to a female member on said cover.
8. (Amended) A fastener as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, including locking means for locking said lever in said closed position.
9. (Original) A fastener as claimed in claim 8, said locking means comprising a male formation on one of said first and second members for releasable engagement with a female formation with the other of said first and second members.
10. (Amended) A fastener as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein said vehicle comprises a boat. ~~A boat cover having a plurality of attachment members positioned around the periphery, each attachment member including a loop;~~  
~~a plurality of attaching and tensioning members attached to a boat, positioned for cooperation with said attachment members on the cover, each attaching and tensioning member comprising a lever pivotal about a pivot and including a male member for extending through said loop of an attachment member of the cover, said male member having a series of transverse recesses spaced sequentially from said pivot for selective engagement with said loop;~~  
~~pivoting of each of said levers about said pivots, to closed positions, attaching said cover to said boat and tensioning said cover.~~

11. (New) A boat cover having a plurality of attachment members positioned around the periphery, each attachment member including a loop;  
a plurality of attaching and tensioning members attached to a boat, positioned for cooperation with said attachment members on the cover, each attaching and tensioning member comprising a lever pivotal about a pivot and including a male member for extending through said loop of an attachment member of the cover, said male member having a series of transverse recesses spaced sequentially from said pivot for selective engagement with said loop;  
pivoting of each of said levers about said pivots, to closed positions, attaching said cover to said boat and tensioning said cover.
12. (Original) An arrangement as claimed in claim 11, including means for releasably attaching said attachment members to existing fasteners on said cover.
13. (Original) An arrangement as claimed in claim 12, including means for releasably attaching said attaching and tensioning members to existing fasteners on said boat.
14. (Original) An arrangement as claimed in claim 11, including locking means on said attaching and tensioning members for releasably locking said levers in said closed position.
15. (Original) In combination a boat and a boat cover, said boat including a plurality of first members attached to said boat, each first member including a loop; said cover including a plurality of second members attached to and spaced around said cover for engagement with said first

members on said boat, each of said second members comprising a lever pivoted about a pivot and including a male member for extending through a loop of a corresponding first member, said male member having a series of transverse recesses spaced sequentially from said pivot for selective engagement with a loop; pivoting of said lever about said pivots to a closed position tensioning said cover and attaching said cover to said boat.

16. (Original) The combination of claim 15, said first members attached to existing fasteners on said boat and said second members attached to existing fasteners on said cover.